

CLAIMS

1. A data transmission/reception system comprised of a first recording/reproduction apparatus and a second recording/reproduction apparatus which execute recording and reproduction of input data, and which transmits and receives data between said first recording/reproduction apparatus and said second recording/reproduction apparatus,

wherein said first recording/reproduction apparatus includes:

a first recording unit for recording a digital data group and a first database file which stores information regarding each digital data of the digital data group;

an extraction unit operable to extract, from the first database file, information regarding digital data which corresponds to digital data which is recorded in said first recording/reproduction apparatus but has been deleted from said second recording/reproduction apparatus, by comparing a second database file sent by said second recording/reproduction apparatus with the first database file;

a delete determination unit operable to determine whether or not to delete the extracted information regarding the digital data and the digital data that corresponds to the extracted information regarding the digital data from said first recording/reproduction apparatus, and

wherein said second recording/reproduction apparatus includes:

a second recording unit for recording a digital data group and a second database file which stores information regarding each digital data of the digital data group; and

a sending unit operable to send the second database file to said first recording/reproduction apparatus.

2. The data transmission/reception system according to Claim 1,
wherein copy origin information indicating where the digital
data is copied from and copy destination information indicating
where the digital data is copied to are included in the information
5 regarding each digital data stored in the first database file and the
second database file, and

said extraction unit is operable to extract, based upon the
copy origin information and the copy destination information, the
information regarding the digital data that corresponds to the digital
10 data recorded in said first recording/reproduction apparatus but
deleted from said second recording/reproduction apparatus.

3. The data transmission/reception system according to Claim 2,
wherein said delete determination unit is operable to
15 determine to delete all extracted information regarding the digital
data and the digital data that corresponds to the extracted
information regarding the digital data.

4. The data transmission/reception system according to Claim 2,
20 wherein information which indicates a priority level is further
included in each information regarding the digital data stored in the
first database file and the second database file, and

said delete determination unit is operable to determine,
based on the priority level of the digital data, whether or not to
25 delete the extracted information regarding the digital data and the
digital data that corresponds to the extracted information regarding
the digital data.

5. The data transmission/reception system according to Claim 1,
30 wherein each information regarding the digital data stored in
the first database file and the second database file further includes
deletion information which indicates that the digital data has been

deleted from said first or said second recording unit, and

said extraction unit is operable to extract, based upon the deletion information, the information regarding the digital data that corresponds to the digital data recorded in said first recording/reproduction apparatus but deleted from said second recording/reproduction apparatus.

6. The data transmission/reception system according to Claim 5, wherein said delete determination unit is operable to delete all the digital data that corresponds to the information regarding the extracted digital data.

7. The data transmission/reception system according to Claim 5, wherein information indicating a priority level is further included in each information regarding the digital data stored in the first database file and the second database file, and

said delete determination unit is operable to determine, based on the priority level of the digital data, whether or not to delete the digital data that corresponds to the information regarding the extracted digital data.

8. The data transmission/reception system according to Claim 6 or Claim 7,

wherein said delete determination unit is operable to delete, from said first recording unit, the digital data determined to be deleted, as well as to refresh the deletion information in the first database file that corresponds to the deleted digital data.

9. The data transmission/reception system according to Claim 1, wherein copy origin information indicating where the digital data is copied from and copy destination information indicating where the digital data is copied to are included in the information

regarding each digital data stored in the first database file and the second database file;

said extraction unit is operable to extract information regarding digital data which corresponds to digital data which is recorded in said first recording/reproduction apparatus but is not recorded in said second recording/reproduction apparatus, by comparing the second database file with the first database file, and

said first recording/reproduction apparatus further includes a sending unit operable to send, to said second recording/reproduction apparatus, the extracted information regarding the digital data and the digital data that corresponds to the extracted information regarding the digital data.

10. The data transmission/reception system according to Claim 9, wherein said sending unit is operable to determine, based on the copy origin information and copy destination information of the digital data, whether or not to send, to said second recording/reproduction apparatus, the information regarding the extracted digital data and the digital data that corresponds to the information regarding the extracted digital data.

11. The data transmission/reception system according to Claim 10,

wherein information indicating a priority level is further included in each information regarding the digital data stored in the first database file and the second database file, and

said sending unit is further operable to determine, based on the priority level information, whether or not to send, to said second recording/reproduction apparatus, the extracted information regarding the digital data and the digital data that corresponds to the extracted information regarding the digital data.

12. The data transmission/reception system according to Claim 1, wherein said first recording/reproduction apparatus or said second recording/reproduction apparatus is installed in a vehicle.

5 13. A recording/reproduction apparatus which executes recording and reproduction of input data and which transmits and receives data with another apparatus, said recording/reproduction apparatus comprising:

10 a recording unit for recording a digital data group and a first database file which stores information regarding each digital data of the digital data group;

15 an extraction unit operable to extract, from the first database file, information regarding digital data which corresponds to digital data which is recorded in said recording/reproduction apparatus but has been deleted from the other apparatus, by comparing a received second database file which has stored information regarding each digital data of the digital data group recorded in the other apparatus with the first database file, and

20 a delete determination unit operable to determine whether or not to delete the extracted information regarding the digital data and the digital data that corresponds to the extracted information regarding the digital data from said recording/reproduction apparatus.

25 14. A data transmission/reception method for transmitting and reception data with another apparatus as well as managing recorded data, said method including:

30 an extraction step for extracting, from the first database file, information regarding digital data which corresponds to digital data which is recorded in the recording/reproduction apparatus but has been deleted from the other apparatus, by comparing a received second database file which has stored information regarding each

digital data of the digital data group recorded in the other apparatus with a first database file which has stored information regarding each digital data of the digital data group recorded in the recording/reproduction apparatus; and

5 a delete determination step for determining whether or not to delete the extracted information regarding the digital data and the digital data that corresponds to the extracted information regarding the digital data.

10 15. A program for transmitting and receiving data with another apparatus as well as managing recorded data, said program causing a computer to execute:

 an extraction step for extracting, from the first database file, information regarding digital data which corresponds to digital data
15 which is recorded in the recording/reproduction apparatus but has been deleted from the other apparatus, by comparing a received second database file which has stored information regarding each digital data of the digital data group recorded in the other apparatus with a first database file which has stored information regarding
20 each digital data of the digital data group recorded in the recording/reproduction apparatus; and

 a delete determination step for determining whether or not to delete the extracted information regarding the digital data and the digital data that corresponds to the extracted information regarding
25 the digital data.